DOCKET NO. 3843-002-27 CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE APPLICATION OF: DAVID McCRAY PEELE

ART UNIT: 1731

SERIAL NO.: 09/735,177

EXAMINER: WALLS, DIONNE

FILING DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2000

FOR:

TOBACCO PROCESSING

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS PO BOX 1450 **ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450**

SIR:

Applicant has filed a Request for Continued Examination in the above-allowed application for the purpose of introducing the substance of the amendment denied entry under Rule 312, and securing entry of the Information Disclosure Statement earlier referenced. Entry of the following amendment is respectfully requested.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: